



**Bitterroot Valley Houndsmen Association, Inc.**  
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Via Email, Fax and US Mail

Montana's Legislative Assembly  
House of Representatives  
House Standing Committee Members: Fish,  
Wildlife and Parks

Via Email and US Mail

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission  
Members

January 9, 2013

Dear Committee Members and Commissioners:

The Bitterroot Valley Houndsmen Association has reviewed House Bill No. 29, "An Act authorizing the trapping of mountain lions by residents; granting rulemaking authority; and amending Sections 87-2-508 and 87-6-401, MCA." Our association based in Hamilton, Montana has 32 members and growing of lifelong outdoorsmen advocates for ethical mountain lion hunting. We are also affiliated with the Montana Wildlife Federation.

Mountain lions are recognized as big game trophy animals in Montana, the Western States, and Canada with a long tradition of hound hunting under a select set of strict regulations. No state or province where mountain lions are considered big game animals is trapping legally authorized. Mountain lions are hunted under a fair-chase law. Currently it is illegal to harm or kill a female mountain lion with kittens. A trap cannot recognize gender and/or the lion's maternal circumstances.

With all due respect to Representative Washburn, we are opposed to trapping of big game animals, in particular mountain lions. We would be happy to discuss personally our position and will testify in committee with you and the Fish, Wildlife and Parks House Standing Committee.

In closing, we houndsmen share mountain lion hunting with archers and a general big game season. We value our ethical hound hunting but we view trapping as harmful to the mountain lion and its population. Imagine walking up to a trapped female mountain lion and seeing her kittens next to the carcass helpless and unable to survive. Please oppose this bill for the good of the mountain lion.

Respectfully,

Ken Fransico, Vice President

Cc: Jeff Hagener – Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Dr. Bob Ream – Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission Chairman

***"Preserving ethical hound hunting for future generations"***